

A LANDMARK EVENT. THE FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 35TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

Article and photos by Sean A. Tate

One Fine Day, specifically Sunday, June 5th, beginning at noon, the Finnish American Heritage Society held a Commemoration; a Celebration of 35 years of lively and meaningful existence. The prayers by the Planning Committee to the Finnish Weather Gods could not have been better answered; sunny, temperatures in the 70sF and low humidity. Even the cottonwood trees surrounding the Finnish Hall seemed to be celebrating with their annual several-day snowfall of cotton fluffs wafting through the air and vaguely whitening the ground. A large collection of guests from near and far gathered under two large tents set up to one side of the Hall to feast, listen to good music, meet and greet, and bring glad tidings and fond memories and cheers in numerous speeches.



The celebration tents at FAHS



The Reception Desk with Anita Smiley and Sandra Ahola

"Eläköön, Eläköön, Eläköön!" Anne-Mari Paster, President of the Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) led the audience in this cheer. *"If I had a glass, I would raise it now. In Finland, when there is a landmark event, we call for everyone to join 3X"* (in this cheer). This was indeed a landmark event.

PLANNING AND ACTION: Events like this do not just happen. Many months of careful planning and then much physical labor went into making this event the success that it was. That too is a testimony to the success of the FAHS over many years. Full credit must be given to the Planning Committee consisting of Stan Karro, Anita Smiley, Saul and Sandra Ahola, Arlene Baril, Minna Waters, Hannu Makipuro and Matti Huhta. Aaron Waters designed the excellent program handout. Even the parking arrangements had been carefully thought out, with a chunky yellow mid-sized school bus from the Brooklyn School District to ferry guests back and forth from the local Canterbury Congregational Church. The bus, using the careful driving skills of Kelly (her real job is a driver of large trucks) made sixteen trips during the event day.

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FOOD: “*What Foods These Morsels Be*” proclaims the foodish proverb. Food had to be one of the highlights, and it was. Once again thanks to the careful preparations and attentive service of *Matthews Catering Company* (its motto is “*Tastefully Inspired, Elegantly Designed*”, and it was), delicious appetizers were circulated among the guests. After a Social Hour, everyone was able to partake of a Finnish-oriented menu of Swedish Meatballs, Butter-baked Salmon Filets with Dill, Cabbage Rolls, Chilled Cucumber Sliced Salad with Dill, Boiled New Potatoes with Butter, Spinach Salad with Strawberries and Feta and Balsamic Dressing. Excellent cupcakes were served for dessert. The beneficence of the meal led to a number of guests being able to walk away with excellent “*raappiaiset*” (leftovers) to enjoy another day.



Saul Ahola (left) and
FAHS President Steve Bousquet (2015-present) “grazing”.



Feasting with Friends

MUSIC AND SILENCE: Music was an important part of the atmosphere and this was supplied by the talented *Phil Palonen Trio* (Phil Palonen, Guitar; Don MacMahon, Keyboard; and Wayne Gasiorek, Drums); as well as (later in the afternoon) by Past President *Hannu Makipuro*, Accordion and Finnish Vocals. A “Silent Auction” table had also been organized and guests watchfully did their bidding on a variety of creative gift baskets.



Phil Palonen Trio. From left, Don MacMahon, keyboard;
Wayne Gasiorek, Drums and Phil Palonen, Guitar.



Hannu Makipuro, FAHS president 1987-1989

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A host of speakers provided words of commemoration, history and wisdom, recalling the “good old days” and many not-so-good days as well, especially at the beginning of the Society. Among the guest speakers were, Anne-Mari Paster, President of the Finlandia Foundation National (FFN); Lynne Williamson, Connecticut Historical Society Consultant; Christopher Lippke, 1st Selectman of the town of Canterbury; and Tom Rutherford, President of the Aura Hall in Voluntown.



Anne-Mari Paster, FFN President

WISDOM: *“Today we celebrate the past, but the succession is equally important. You have such a strong basis here. Let’s keep the excitement and energy and positivity going on. Connect with the next generation. Start with the low-hanging fruit; get your children and grandchildren involved. Talk to them but most importantly hear and listen to them. They may have different ideas and thoughts and visions than us but that is part of the development. Onto the future.”*

Key speakers were a number of the Past Presidents of the FAHS. Among these were Hannu Makipuro (1987-1989); Anita Häkklä-Smiley (on behalf of Jack Smiley, 1989-1996); Steve Popkin ((1996-1999), Anita Häkklä-Smiley (1999-2002); Stan Karro (2011-2015) and current President Steve Bousquet (2015-Present). Providing essential historical context, particularly about the difficult beginnings of the FAHS, was Burton Jernstrom, Archivist Emeritus.



Stan Karro,
FAHS President 2011-2015



Anita Häkklä-Smiley,
FAHS President 1999-2002

Anita Häkklä-Smiley recalled a relevant closing story by a man of many stories, her husband Jack Smiley: “When St. Anthony was asked by a blind person, ‘Can anything be worse than being blind?’, St Anthony replied, ‘Losing your vision.’ May the Finnish American Heritage Society never lose its vision.”

A very important part of the day’s program was a slide presentation, this inside the Hall, of “FAHS, Celebrating 35 Years, 1987-2022” by Anita Häkklä-Smiley. The many fine old photos added life to the excellent historical narration.

Celebrating **35** 1987-2022
Years
FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Burton Jernstrom, Archivist Emeritus

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Steve Popkin, FAHS President 1996-1999

One of the most thoughtful and insightful presentations of the afternoon came from Past President Steve Popkin, and a few excerpts from his text provide a fitting close to this commemoration essay:

“This entire site is a shrine to Finnish-Americans, then, and now, and who will be, who boarded ships and planes to come to the United States for a new life, whether it was in order to survive, for love, for exploration or for studies or work. Coming here, to this picturesque quiet corner, they brought their Finnishness, their ethos, their beliefs, and merged them, to a point, with those already here. They were ready to serve and fight in our nation’s wars, as the memorial sites here recall, they were ready to stand firm with their values at times when they were not wholly popular, as exemplified by the Socialist library, and they were ready to have fun, whether on the stage, dance floor, and now the sauna. This land, building and contents, provides a glimpse into lives, ours and theirs, over time.”

“So, with the programs and history contained herein at FAHS, past can be prolog if we pay attention and learn. We can be easily consumed by the here and now, the day-to-day fear and differences between us, or we can remember our forebears, coming bravely and resolutely into a new world, in which...together, they were able to adapt, learn to get along and ultimately flourish. Above all else, let that be a legacy of this place and FAHS, as a beacon of hope and guidepost for a positive future.”

And so it was, and is, and, with continuing *Sisu*, will be.



Acknowledgement with Gratitude: to FFN for their generous grant to support the FAHS 35th celebration.

Finnish Culinary Delights ~ A St. Urho's Themed Feast

Photos and Article by Minna Waters

The Finn Hall was overflowing with people! We were finally in person after two long years for our ever-popular Culinary Delights event. Combining the St. Urho holiday, created in Minnesota back in the '50s, our culinary chefs concocted a most entertaining menu of varying recipes to complement the celebration....and to feed St. Urho himself! Although St. Urho's day is celebrated on March 16th, everyone gathered ten days later to observe the cooking demonstrations and sample the delectable food.



The Culinary Delights Audience



*St. Urho & Grasshopper
(Aaron & Erika Waters)*

Before the event even started, grasshoppers were sighted and had to be chased away from the Finn Hall guests and of course the food! St. Urho commanded presence and saved the day (and Finland from those pesky grasshoppers that were trying to destroy the Finnish grape crop)!

Patti Folsom kicked off the event with her presentation of cabbage casserole, aka "*kaalilaatikko*," prepared in traditional Finnish oven-baked method. She also provided alternatives to create this delicious and hearty dish for vegetarians and for calorie conscious consumers. Patti was followed by Nelly Fyke who prepared a chilled cucumber and dill salad that she recalled her mom making on warm summer days in Helsinki. The third presenter was Minna Waters who prepared fish soup, aka "*kalakeitto*." As a matter of fact, it was the same fish soup that strengthened St. Urho so he could rid Finland of those pesky grasshoppers. Our fourth culinary chef was Sean Tate who baked a very St. Urho themed plum and grape torte, perfectly displaying the celebration colors of green and purple. Sean's recipe was a huge hit and was immediately devoured by our guests.

We concluded the event with a raffle of graciously donated baskets which raised money for much-needed repairs in the Hall. We also welcomed a half-dozen first-time visitors (we even signed up some new members), and truly enjoyed being together to celebrate with our Finn-friends and food, of course!

Many thanks to those making this community cultural educational event possible: To our culinary specialists mentioned above, Stan Karro, Katrina Bousquet, The Coupe family: Steve, Sue, Kaydence, and Taylor, along with Sandra Seibel and to all who donated raffle baskets.

Let us know if you have a theme suggestion for next year. Reach us at info@fahs-ct.org or on Facebook at [FinnishAmericanHeritageSocietyofCanterbury,CT](https://www.facebook.com/FinnishAmericanHeritageSocietyofCanterburyCT) *Kiitos paljon* and see you in 2023.

Editors' note: find the 2022 Culinary Delights recipes at www.fahs-ct.org.



NEWS FROM FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL

by Anita Smiley

After serving for 22 years as a Trustee on the Board of Finlandia Foundation National (FFN), I have retired from that position and attended my final Board meeting in April 2022. Covid has created obstacles over these last two years, but FFN has moved ahead with exciting, innovative programming. I would like to report on some of the latest news from FFN since we, as FAHS members, are also members of FFN and draw many benefits from affiliation. Recently, generous grant funding enabled us to build a bigger and better 35th anniversary celebration of our Finnish American Heritage Society. We are grateful for that support.

As FFN members, each FAHS member should be receiving the high-quality FFN newsletter twice yearly. The FAHS membership secretary keeps the national office updated on membership information. If you have not been receiving those newsletters, please let me or a member of the FAHS Board know. This is an additional perk provided by your FAHS membership dues, and this networking is an important part of promoting and preserving the Finnish heritage.

You can also request to be on the mailing list for e-news, distributed monthly from National. Send your request directly to: office@finlandiafoundation.org.

The Lecturer of the Year (LOY) program, currently featuring cooks Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman, and the Performer of the Year (POY) program, currently featuring musician/vocalist Eepi Ursin, have been highly successful. Our FinnFunn Weekends on several occasions have included POYs and LOYs.

At the latest FFN Board meeting it was announced that a new program, Artist of the Year, is being planned. The Board is always seeking suggestions for nominations for all these positions.

A Joint Chapter Meeting is scheduled in the fall in New York City in conjunction with the FFN Board meeting at the Scandinavia House. Presidents or representatives from each of the 59 FFN chapters are invited to attend.

Please note that FFN continues the yearly distribution of grants and scholarships. Grant funding in the amount of \$124,000 was distributed this year, and a total of 19 scholarships for a total of \$46,000 were awarded. There are also scholarships available for young people for the very popular Salolampi Finnish language village in Bemidji, MN, and the Soiva Music Camp. Please refer to the information on all these programs, available at www.finlandiafoundation.org, the FFN website.

30 Years!

FinnFunn 2022

October 28-30, 2022

Juhlimme!

The weekend brings together folks from the Northeast to celebrate American-Finnish history and culture.

At the Inn at East Hill Farm. They can be reached for any questions, just mention you are contacting them about FinnFunn. phone: (603) 242-6495 website: www.east-hill-farm.com

For more information: visit the FinnFunn Website: www.finnfunn.org

The Pannukakku Breakfast – Through A Child's Eyes

by Walter Coupe

Saturday, April 2, was a very busy day for me. I got up at 5:15 a.m. and ran down to Grammy's to get some breakfast. I ate cantaloupe, a bagel with cream cheese and a glass of milk. Then we left to pick up Grandpa Bob and Grandma Smith. I talked to Grandpa Bob about donut stock around the country for only 40 minutes. After we arrived at the Hall, I went downstairs. It was my first year as a worker. My cousins were already there. Then they put me to work. I had to deliver all the lingonberry jam (my favorite) to all the tables upstairs and downstairs. Next was the butter my cousins fixed. By then, Uncle Greg had started to make the pancakes. The girls were putting pulla slices in bags for me to deliver. Liz was busy cooking *pannikakku* and baked scrambled eggs. Scott and Liam arrived and began their jobs. Stan was busy making sausages. Then people started to arrive for breakfast. I had to get the pulla bread out of the freezer so Dianne could sell them to customers. More and more people came and sat down. Finally, they lined up to get their food. I walked up and down the rows checking if people needed anything. I found one person and struck up a conversation. They told me they were from Brooklyn. I thought they meant Brooklyn, NY, where my Grandfather Victor lives. They explained it was the next town over. Every seat downstairs was taken. Upstairs people chose seats closest to the stairs because it was easier to go up and down. Matti told me I could turn on the disco ball. I gave one lady 2 loaves of pulla. She told me she only asked for 1. I suggested she could make a donation. Lots of people told me they really liked the FAHS (Winter 2022 edition) newsletter article I wrote about the Christmas party. I talked to a lot of people who had never been to the Hall before. They said they would come back if we ever had something like this again. Finally, I had some time to eat. Time to clean up and go home. My cousins and I had a good time.



Walter Coupe with pulla



Kaydence Coupe and Tomas Gutierrez on the upstairs breakfast serving line.



Nora Brassard



Liz Hawes-Weeks and fresh from the oven pannukakku

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Taylor Coupe (left) and Addison Sasser-Cuff (right) as servers at the Pannukakku Breakfast

Spring Pannukakku Breakfast

by Sue Coupe, Event Chair

One of the first major gatherings of 2022 was the annual Spring *Pannukakku* Breakfast. As we all are anxious for normalcy, this was a great way to start the day and reopening of FAHS activities. The *pulla* bakers had been busy for several weeks stocking up in anticipation of a banner day. They were not disappointed. Everyone who was looking forward to leaving the Hall with a loaf or two of mouthwatering *pulla* left with a full belly and the coveted bread.

The prep crew on Friday readied 40 lbs. of potatoes, 8 lbs. onions, 30 dozen eggs. They also set the tables and organized the serving stations. The embroidered aprons and *hiski* (head scarves), made by Sue Coupe, were waiting at the Hall for the staff members on Saturday

Early the next morning, the kitchen staff were busily finishing last-minute preparations. Our well-oiled crew managed themselves while making the process look easy. The rave reviews flowed all morning. So many guests were impressed with the teens and preteens work. Many were greeted and engaged by a member of the staff. Guests feasted on oatmeal, sausage, pancakes with real maple syrup, *pannukakku*, scrambled eggs, toast with lingonberry jam, and of course our *pulla*.

We can proudly say we had volunteers from age 8 to 94! There were multiple generations of workers – one family had four generations; several others had three. This level of participation will ensure FAHS will continue another 35 years. *Kiitos! Kiitos! Kiitos!* We look forward to seeing you next year.



Sue Coupe, Event Chair

For the first time in its 35-year history, the FAHS museum is open to the public during a regular weekly schedule. The museum hours are Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Staffing of the museum is made possible through the Collection Management Committee's volunteer hours and the grant-funded hours of committee member and museum curator Lisa Joseph. Lisa's salary is funded by a CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant. FAHS was one of 624 organizations in the state awarded CT Cultural Fund support totaling \$16M from CT Humanities.

The museum was officially opened to the public on Wednesday, May 18th, International Museum Day. A small but enthusiastic number of visitors took the opportunity to tour the museum on May 18th and on subsequent open days. FAHS participated in the Connecticut Open House Day on Saturday, June 11th and the number of visitors to the museum increased substantially, thanks to the statewide publicity provided by the Connecticut Office of Tourism.

Recent visitors to our museum commented that it is "amazing" and a "hidden treasure." We are hopeful the number of visitors will continue to increase as the summer progresses. If you haven't toured the museum in recent years, or have never been to the Finnish Hall, make plans during the summer months to make a visit. We'd love to see you!

We are also pleased to report that FAHS is the recipient of a Museum Makeover grant. Museum Makeover is a program of Conservation Connection and is supported through a partnership with the Connecticut League of History Organizations and funded by a grant from the CT Cultural Fund. The CT Cultural Fund is administered by CT Humanities with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts from the Connecticut State Legislature.

FAHS has been assigned two visiting museum curators, Elysa Engelman, Director of Exhibits, Mystic Seaport and Nicole Carpenter, Programs & Collections Director, Westport Museum for History & Culture. Ms. Engelman and Ms. Carpenter toured our museum on May 4th and will work with us to create a new dynamic display. They have tasked the committee with polling FAHS members and visitors about what they hope to see in the museum and what stories they think the museum should tell in its two rooms. If you have any ideas for a story to be represented in our new museum display, the committee would love to hear from you. Please email your thoughts to Patti Folsom at: rifinn@gmail.com.



Chuck O'Neil, left, from Woonsocket, RI, and Wayne Barber, right, from Thompson, CT, were among the first visitors to the FAHS museum on May 18th. Anita Smiley, center, provided them with a guided tour of the Finnish Hall.

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Irja Oja stands next to the Tuhkimo ryijy that she donated to the FAHS museum.

The Collections Management Committee continues to receive donations from families in the surrounding area. A *Tuhkimo* (Cinderella) *ryijy* was recently donated by Irja Oja of Brooklyn, CT. This *ryijy* was presented to Irja by her sister, when Irja and her late husband Thure traveled to Finland in 1952. Since that time, it had been displayed on the wall of the Oja's family room. Now, visitors touring the FAHS museum can appreciate the fine handiwork, beautiful colors, and theme of this wall hanging, which is representative of mid-20th century Finnish *ryijys*.

The Collections Management Committee welcomes donations to the archive, library, and

museum. Donations may be brought to the Finnish Hall during our open hours on Wednesdays and alternate Saturdays, or may be given to a Board member during a monthly meeting or program. The FAHS Collections Management Committee accepts materials that reflect Finnish-American heritage and history and are representative of Finnish Americans in the Northeastern United States.

If you have any questions, call 860 546-6671, email info@fahs-ct.org, or message us on Facebook.



Mirja and Ritva Johanson pause for refreshments during the June 11th Open House, sponsored by CT Office of Tourism.

FAHS Chicken BBQ



FAHS President Steve Bousquet
Photo by Anita Smiley

From Stan Karro: "Thank you to all who helped make this a significant, successful fundraiser for FAHS. Special thanks to the pit crew for a long hot day of effort."

From Patti Folsom: "It was wonderful to chat with all the customers as they drove up to pick up their dinners. Many members, of course, and also many community members look forward to our dinner... with comments like "We wouldn't miss it—best chicken around!"

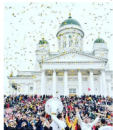
And from President Steve Bousquet: "I want to report that the Chicken BBQ was a big success, all the chickens were precisely sold and accounted for. The volunteer support was solid. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped the event to be a success. On the **HOTTEST** day of 2022, the team Sisu was strong."



Vappu

by Minna Waters

Being able to host in-person events again at the Finn Hall has truly been a blessing! On May 1st, the Hall was packed with members both new and old eager to learn about the 4th largest holiday celebrated in Finland, **Vappu**. Originating from the Catholic St. Walpurgis in the early 1700's, whose commemoration day was celebrated on the 1st of May, **Vappu** as the Finns know it, now begin their celebration a bit earlier and usually on May Day Eve, April 30th.



Vappu celebration
Helsinki Senate Square

As students don a white cap on the *Havis Amanda Fountain* in the center of Helsinki, other cities celebrate with antique auto parades and white caps placed on their local statues. **Vappu** symbolizes the end of the school year and graduation along with a celebration of the start to summer. Picnics in parks with **Vappu** delicacies such as homemade mead, known as *sima*, and *munkki* donuts are ever so popular.

Our Finn Hall **Vappu** event began with a background from the past to the present courtesy of Aaron Waters. Then, Anita Smiley shared some family photos of **Vappu** celebrations and graduations while explaining the significance

of the white hat (given to each Finnish High School Graduate and worn on subsequent **Vappu** days to remind the person of their student days) and bright colored outfits covered with patches that are traditionally worn on **Vappu**. A few brave chefs brought their homemade *sima* to share along with their homemade *munkki* and funnel cake, or *tippaleipä*, as known to the Finns.

Those who gathered to join us in the Finn Hall on May 1st, were able to immerse themselves into this rapidly growing Finnish event and hopefully will all come back to the Hall next year to celebrate again.

A quick YouTube search for "**Vappu** 2022" will provide several 'walking coverages' taken from this event in Finland. They are very entertaining to watch!



Tippaleipä made by Minna Waters
Photo by Minna Waters



Newsletter Report

by Kay Gruder, Editor

It is wonderful to share the many events now occurring live at FAHS. Each recap features the palpable energy of those supporting the many cultural programs organized and presented by dedicated members. It is also nice to see many of our youth appearing in the pages of the newsletter; their insights, caring ways, and willingness to contribute their time and talents are signs of good things to come. Our vital organization is getting noticed externally, perhaps best illustrated by the recent grants that have been awarded to support work in our archives and museum. While we can always wish for more, it is also a great time to pause and recognize all that is and all that is to come.

Of note in this issue are the 35th Anniversary recap, Culinary Delights, *Pannukakku* Breakfast, Chicken BBQ and updates from the FAHS Collections Committee, among other regular features.

The Tori Market Returns

by Liz Hawes-Weeks

The Tori Market returns Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Finnish American Heritage Society in Canterbury, CT. This annual event took a two-year break and we have missed our vendors, customers and friends greatly. The open-air market is a loved tradition all over Finland and we continue to share our heritage with Eastern Connecticut. The Tori will have plenty of homemade food to enjoy, beautiful arts, crafts, vendors, music and an all-around good time.

I will be reaching out to our past vendors and we are always looking for new vendors. If you know someone who would like to participate, have them reach out to ElizaHawesWeeks@gmail.com. Vendor space is limited inside with \$20.00 per table (limit 2 tables per vendor). Inside is a first-come, first-serve basis. Outdoor space is available for \$20.00 however, tables are not provided. This event is rain or shine. If you are outside, a tent or easy up is a good idea if you have one. The ever-popular basket raffles will be back and donations are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Please reach out to Rita Kelly (860-465-6236) or Irene Profetto (860-774-6985) if you would like to make a contribution.

I will also be looking for help with this event. We will need someone to chair the Kitchen and staff to help run the event along with set-up and clean-up crews. Contact Liz at ElizaHawesWeeks@gmail.com.

Member News & Milestones

Congratulations – Onnea



The Waters family is proud to announce that Cade Waters will graduate from Waterford High this June and report 10 days later to the United States Coast Guard Academy's class of 2026 to major in Cyber Systems. He will also continue playing ice hockey and performing in the Cadet Jazz Band.

Get Well Wishes – Pikaista Paranemista

Ann Gruenberg of Hampton, CT, Scholarship Committee Chair, for continued rehabilitation.
Marcia Huhta of Moosup, CT, who is recovering from a brief hospital stay.
Steven Coupe of Chepachet, RI who is recovering from recent eye surgery.

Sympathies – Otamme Osaa

To Irene Profetto on the death of her beloved husband of 56 years, James A. Profetto, 92, who died on April 15. <https://www.norwichbulletin.com/obituaries/pnrw0193962>

Submitting Member News & Milestones

If you would like to have any “well wishes, condolences, or congratulations” included in the Fall 2022 newsletter, please email minna.waters@gmail.com by September 10, 2022. Please put “News and Milestones” in the subject line. *Paljon Kiitoksia/Many Thanks, Minna.*

Recent Happenings around The Hall

Hall Maintenance:

The on-demand water heater is installed and is working well.

Replacement basement windows have been installed by Matti Huhta.

Front Door Canopy update – project has been delayed for now.

Veterans Memorial Committee – Arlene Baril reported the establishment of an ad hoc committee to address the dilapidation of the Veteran Memorial outside of the Hall and on the Hill. The committee is made up of Arlene Baril, Anita Smiley, Stan Karro, Saul Ahola, and Aaron Waters. There are over 1,300 names on the memorial, and not all were members of FAHS. The committee plans to investigate different options to propose to the membership at a future meeting.

Grounds Maintenance:

Kiitos paljon to Steven and Katrina Bousquet and American Landscape and Lawn Science LLC for recent donation of landscaping service on the Finn Hall grounds in preparation for summer activities.

Other

The Board has established a FAHS Bylaw review committee. We welcome additional members. If interested, please contact Ellen Buffington at 970-576-8360 or ellenmbuffington@gmail.com.

Coffee Social – Seija McDermott and Tom McDermott joined Nelly Fyke and Minna Waters for an informal and intimate coffee social at the Finn Hall on May 15th. The McDermott's generously donated a variety of Finnish books ranging from children's stories to Finnish historical readings. Kiitos paljon! Check out www.fahs-ct.org for our upcoming coffee socials and please join us!

On the evening of June 7, 2022, the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School conducted their 2022 graduation. Among the students who received awards was Noemia Amaral. She was selected for the first Finnish American Heritage Society Award for her interest in local history and in other cultures. Her award letter, which included a check for \$75, also extended an invitation to her and her family to attend our Open House on June 11th to learn about Finnish American immigrants and their achievements.

Writers' Workshop-sessions to resume in the Fall. Please contact Susan at susanhinz413@gmail.com for details or questions.

FAHS Yard Sale-August 27th. Please bring donations to the Hall when open. Seeking volunteers for the event-Contact Stan Karro at 860-480-3648.

RENTAL COORDINATOR NEEDED: FAHS is seeking a rental coordinator beginning September, 2022. The coordinator handles scheduling, contract signatures and fee collections. View the rental agreement at www.fahs-ct.org. Contact Steve Bousquet or Stan Karro for more information.

The Waters' Finland Trip Recap May 2022

Article and Photo by Minna Waters

Minna, Aaron, and Cade Waters recently returned from a 10-day visit to Finland. While there, they watched a total of eight International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) games in both host cities of Helsinki and Tampere. They witnessed the U.S. team defeat the undefeated Swedish team in the new Nokia Arena in Tampere and see team Suomi beat Austria. (Team Suomi ended up taking the gold against Team Canada). Being able to represent both Finland and the United States was a treat!

Aside from attending hockey games, they visited family and friends, enjoyed coffee with *munkki* at *Pyynikki* Tower, toured *Suomenlinna*, and visited some favorite watering holes in Helsinki: *St. Urho's Pub*, *Molly Malones*, *Flying Dutch*, *Juttutupa*, and *Bryggeri*. The weather was sunny everyday aside from their departure date and temperatures were in the mid to upper 60's.....they really lucked out. Of course, a trip to Finland would not be complete without taking a sauna, and they were able to enjoy not one but three!



Aaron, Cade & Minna Waters at Helsinki Arena

A recommendation to pass to others is to download the "HSL" app and "Taksi Helsinki" if you plan on using alternate transportation in Helsinki (street car, metro, or water ferry). If you are a fearless person and would like to rent an electric scooter, found on any street corner, the brand *Lyme* is linked to Uber, and with a couple clicks on your phone, you'll be able to navigate the streets of Helsinki in seconds. Before prices rise too much, this summer is a perfect time to visit Finland!

Suurella arvostuksella, kiitos paljon

(With great appreciation, thank you so much)

by Ellen Buffington and Erika Waters, Co-Corresponding Secretaries

In April and May, the Finnish American Heritage Society received 34 donations from individuals living in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Arizona, Michigan, and Colorado. These donations ranged from \$5-\$150 and totaled \$1,100 to the general fund and \$165 to the Scholarship Fund, and a grant from Finlandia Foundation National to support the 35th FAHS Anniversary.

Recent donations to the Archives, Museum and Library:

- ✓ Seija & Tom McDermott – Various Finnish Books
- ✓ Mark Andstrom – Mannequin
- ✓ Beverly & Markku Nikkila – 3 Arabia Presidential plates and 9 Arabia Kalevala plates
(Editors' note: Arabia is a Finnish crockery and ceramics company)

NOTE: Our all-volunteer team works hard to process and respond to anyone donating to FAHS in a timely manner. We apologize for any unfortunate delays. To contact the Secretary, correspondence@fahs-ct.org.

Welcome New Members!

Jacquelyn Andstrom - Bridgeport, CT
Qian Xie - Hope, RI
Lynn von Contra - Woodstock, CT
Larry W. Laudenslager - Dayville, CT
Margie & Richard Huoppi - Pomfret Center, CT
Linda & Tim Bulger - Waterford, CT
Daniel Mattila - Sandy Hook, CT

New Members are **ALWAYS** welcome!

President	Steven Bousquet	860-608-8366
Vice President	Minna Waters	251-454-1614
Treasurer	Jobina Miller	860-377-0789
Secretary	Aaron Waters	251-454-2494
Co-Correspondence	Ellen Buffington	970-576-8360
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FAHS is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to preserve and promote Finnish-American heritage. Membership is open to all who are interested in the purpose of the organization.

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FAHS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Collection of materials and proofreading: Kay Gruder, Patti Folsom, Anita Snuley, Jackie Harjula, Ellen Buffington and Linda Kuja.
Members' News and Milestones: Minna Waters

Coming Events at a Glance

June 30	Scholarship Application deadline
June 30	Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m.
July 13	Informal Coffee Social 10:00 a.m.
August TBD	Summer Clean-up TBD
August 13	Informal Coffee Social 10:00 a.m.
August 25	Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
August 27	FAHS Yard Sale 8:00 a.m.
September 1	Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.
September 10	Fall Newsletter Deadline
September 24	Tori Open Market 9:00 a.m.

Please visit fahs-ct.org for the most current calendar.

